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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/53/L.8 and Add.1)*]

53/7. World Solar Programme 1996–2005

The General Assembly,

Aware that one of the priority tasks of the United Nations for the benefit of present and future generations is the elimination of poverty and the improvement of the quality of life of the millions living in misery,

Recalling, in the context of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] that sustainable development is one of the main goals of the United Nations system and that one of the key elements for attaining it is the application of sustainable energy systems, which includes the wider use of environmentally friendly, renewable energies,

Recalling also that the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session,[2] recognized the need to promote efforts in research on and development and use of renewable energies at the international and national levels,

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

Recalling further that energy will be one of the main topics of the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2001,

Recalling that the World Solar Summit, held at Harare on 16 and 17 September 1996, adopted the Harare Declaration on Solar Energy and Sustainable Development[3] and approved the preparation of the World Solar Programme 1996–2005[4] aimed at improving the quality of life in both industrialized and developing countries through the wider use of renewable energies, notably in the rural areas of developing countries, and that the Programme was approved by the World Solar Commission in June 1997,

Recalling also resolution 29 C/14 concerning the World Solar Programme 1996–2005, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in November 1997,[5]

Considering the need to make all necessary efforts to achieve the goals set out in the Harare Declaration,

Noting with appreciation the support shown and commitments made so far by a number of donor Member States,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the heads of State and Government who have agreed to serve on the World Solar Commission, and especially to the Chairman of the Commission;

2. *Endorses* the World Solar Programme 1996–2005[4] as a contribution to the overall sustainable development agenda;

3. *Invites* all States Members of the United Nations to contribute to the successful implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996–2005;

4. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and in close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations:

(*a*) To undertake concrete action in order to ensure that the World Solar Programme 1996–2005 is fully integrated into and brought into the mainstream of the efforts of the United Nations system to attain the objective of sustainable development;

(*b*) To bring the World Solar Programme 1996–2005 to the attention of relevant funding and technical assistance sources and to encourage them to consider contributing to its effective implementation;

(*c*) To continue to sensitize and generate a greater degree of awareness in all Member States and international, regional and national institutions, both public and private, to the strategic importance of the World Solar Programme 1996–2005 for ensuring sustainable development;

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[3] A/53/395, annex, sect. II.

[4] Ibid., annex.

[5] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-ninth Session, Paris, 21 October-12 November 1997*, vol. 1: *Resolutions*.

(*d*) To submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a report entitled "World Solar Programme 1996–2005" concerning measures taken by the different entities of the United Nations system in accordance with the provisions of the present resolution.

39th plenary meeting
16 October 1998